

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended): A pedal apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a supporting bracket fixed to a dash panel of the vehicle;

a pedal arm pivotally connected to the supporting bracket, wherein the pedal arm has a first pin pivotally connected to the supporting bracket and a second pin at an end of the pedal arm opposite to an end with a foot pad; and

a lever hooked at one end to the pedal arm, said lever being configured and dimensioned to be struck by a striking portion under deformation by a front impact of the vehicle causing the pedal arm to rotate in a direction of the front of the vehicle by torque transferred from the lever and wherein said lever has a third pin pivotally connected to the supporting bracket, a hook portion hooked to the second pin of the pedal arm, and an impact portion opposite to the striking portion.

2. (Previously Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended): The pedal apparatus of claim 1, wherein the striking portion is defined as an additional structure formed on ~~[[a]]~~ the dash panel or a mounting plate for a steering wheel.

4. (Previously Amended): The pedal apparatus of claim 3, wherein the impact portion rotates about the third pin in the direction of the front of the vehicle such that the hook portion rotates about the third pin in a direction of the rear of the vehicle,

and wherein the second pin hooked by the hook portion rotates about the first pin in the direction of the rear of the vehicle such that the end of the pedal arm adhering the foot pad rotates about the first pin in a direction of the front of the vehicle.

5. (Original): The pedal apparatus of claim 4, wherein the pedal apparatus is a brake pedal apparatus.

6. (Original): The pedal apparatus of claim 4, wherein the pedal apparatus is a clutch pedal apparatus.

7. (Currently Amended): A pedal apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a pedal arm configured to be pivotably mounted to a dash panel at a pivot point, with an upper end above the pivot point and a lower, foot operated end below the pivot point, wherein the pedal arm has a first pin pivotally connected to a bracket and a second pin at an end of the pedal arm opposite to the lower, foot operated end below the pivot point;

a lever pivotably mounted to the dash panel, with a first end engaging the upper end of the pedal arm and a second impact end extending opposite the first end, and wherein said lever has a third pin pivotally connected to the bracket and a hook portion hooked to the second pin of the pedal arm; and

a striking member disposed opposite the impact end of the lever such that deformation of the dash panel in response to a collision causes the striking member to strike the impact end of the lever which pivots such that the first end pulls the pedal arm to a retracted position.

8. (Previously Amended): The pedal apparatus of claim 7, wherein the pedal arm and lever are pivotably mounted to the bracket that is secured to the dash panel.

9. (Canceled).